

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system, comprising:
 - a receive data buffer; and
 - a decoder assembly receiving data from the buffer for decoding thereof, the decoder assembly including a clock, a rate of the clock being established at least in part based on how full of data the buffer is.
2. The system of Claim 1, comprising a non-isochronous network conveying multimedia data to a receiver embodying the buffer and decoder assembly.
3. The system of Claim 2, wherein the data is formatted in MPEG.
4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the rate is established at least in part by a buffer occupancy level.
5. The system of Claim 4, wherein the buffer occupancy level is a time-averaged buffer occupancy level.
6. The system of Claim 5, wherein the time-averaged buffer occupancy level is established at least in part based on plural instantaneous buffer occupancy levels.

7. The system of Claim 4, wherein the rate is decreased in response to a determination that the buffer occupancy level is relatively low and wherein the rate is increased in response to a determination that the buffer occupancy level is relatively high.

8. The system of Claim 4, wherein the rate is changed depending at least in part on a rate of change of the buffer occupancy level.

9. The system of Claim 5, wherein the time-averaged buffer occupancy level is based at least in part on a maximum instantaneous buffer occupancy level and a minimum instantaneous buffer occupancy level.

10. A multimedia receiver, comprising:
at least one buffer holding data to be decoded;
at least one decoder communicating with the buffer;
at least one clock component sending a clock signal to the decoder; and
at least one processor executing logic to establish a clock rate associated with the clock component, the logic including:
determining a buffer occupancy level of the buffer; and
at least in part based on the buffer occupancy level, establishing the clock rate.

11. The receiver of Claim 10, wherein the logic comprises determining a time-averaged buffer occupancy level for use in the establishing step.

12. The receiver of Claim 11, wherein the time-averaged buffer occupancy level is established at least in part based on plural instantaneous buffer occupancy levels.

13. The receiver of Claim 11, wherein the logic comprises decreasing the clock rate in response to a determination that the buffer occupancy level is relatively low and increasing the clock rate in response to a determination that the buffer occupancy level is relatively high.
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14. The receiver of Claim 11, wherein the logic includes:
10 determining a rate of change of the buffer occupancy level; and changing the clock rate at least in part based on the rate of change of the buffer occupancy level.

15. The receiver of Claim 11, wherein the time-averaged buffer occupancy level is based at least in part on a maximum instantaneous buffer occupancy level and a minimum instantaneous buffer occupancy level.

16. A computer-implemented method for establishing a decoder clock rate,
15 comprising the acts of:
receiving into a buffer data to be decoded at a sampling interval;
determining how full the buffer is; and
based on the determining act, determining whether to increase or decrease
the sampling interval.

17. The method of Claim 16, comprising determining how full the buffer is using a time-averaged buffer occupancy level.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the time-averaged buffer occupancy level is based at least in part on a maximum instantaneous buffer occupancy level and a minimum instantaneous buffer occupancy level.

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19. The method of Claim 16, comprising increasing or decreasing the sample interval based at least in part on a time rate of change of a buffer occupancy level.

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20. A system for establishing a decoder clock rate, comprising:
buffer means for receiving data to be decoded;
means for determining a buffer occupancy level; and
means for establishing a clock rate for decoding data in the buffer means
based at least in part on the buffer occupancy level.

21. The system of Claim 20, comprising means for determining a time-averaged buffer occupancy level.

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22. The system of Claim 21, wherein the time-averaged buffer occupancy level is based at least in part on a maximum instantaneous buffer occupancy level and a minimum instantaneous buffer occupancy level.

23. The system of Claim 20, comprising means for altering the clock rate based at least in part on a time rate of change of a buffer occupancy level.